

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wireless communication system for hosting a plurality of processes, each process in said plurality of processes executed in accordance with a communication protocol, the communication protocol including a set of functions, said wireless communication system comprising:
 - a plurality of application specific instruction set processors (ASISPs), each ASISP capable of executing a subset of said set of functions included in said communication protocol; and
- 10 a scheduler connected to said plurality of ASISPs for scheduling said plurality of ASISPs in accordance with a time-slicing algorithm so that each process in said plurality of processes is supported by said wireless communication system.
2. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs further comprises:
 - 15 an input register for receiving an input program and state associated with a process in said plurality of processes, each instruction in said input program being part of a limited purpose instruction set that supports said subset of functions included in said communication protocol; and
 - 20 an output register for storing a value that indicates a state of said process after execution of said input program.
3. The wireless communication system of claim 2, wherein
said input program is associated with a first process selected from said
25 plurality of processes; and
said time-slicing algorithm includes a step of allocating a selected ASISP in
said plurality of ASISPs to said input program for a predetermined period of time.
4. The wireless communication system of claim 3 wherein said input program is
30 not interrupted by said scheduler during said predetermined period of time.
5. The wireless communication system of claim 3 wherein execution of said input
program is completed during said predetermined period of time.

6. The wireless communication system of claim 2, wherein said scheduler further includes a synchronization mechanism for synchronizing said plurality of ASISPs, the synchronization mechanism capable of reallocating an ASISP in said plurality of
5 ASISPs from a first input program that is associated with a first process to a second input program that is associated with a second process.
7. The wireless communication system of claim 6 wherein said first process is a first echo and said second process is a second echo.
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8. The wireless communication system of claim 6 wherein said first process is each echo associated with a first mobile and said second process is each echo associated with a second mobile.
- 15 9. The wireless communication system of claim 2, wherein
said time-slicing algorithm defines a predetermined period of time;
said limited purpose instruction set includes a “wait” instruction for
synchronization; and
each ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs is configured so that when said “wait”
20 instruction is received by said input register, the ASISP does execute a communication protocol function during said predetermined period of time and then automatically returns to an idle state thereby reducing a power consumption of the ASISP during the predetermined period of time.
- 25 10. The wireless communication system of claim 2, further including a plurality of memory modules, each memory module in said plurality of memory modules associated with a different ASISP selected from said plurality of ASISPs.
11. The wireless communication system of claim 10 wherein said state of said
30 process stored in said output register is stored in a unique segment of said different memory module, the unique segment of said memory module being determined by an identity of said process.

12. The wireless communication system of claim 11 wherein said output register is further used to store a process identifier value that provides said identity of said process.
- 5 13. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein said communication protocol is a code division multiple access (CDMA) protocol.
14. The wireless communication system of claim 13 wherein said communication protocol is selected from the group consisting of IS-95 CDMA, IS-95B CDMA,
- 10 CDMA TIA IS2000, TIA IS 2000A, wideband CDMA (WCDMA), cdma2000, and ARIB WCDMA.
15. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein said communication protocol is a time division multiple access (TDMA) protocol.
- 15 16. The wireless communication system of claim 15 wherein said communication protocol is IS-136 TDMA.
17. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein said ASISP is a finger
- 20 ASISP and said subset of functions comprises a delay lock loop (DLL) and a channel estimation.
18. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein said ASISP is a combiner ASISP and said subset of functions comprises a frequency error estimation,
- 25 a finger energy estimation, and a signal-to-interference (SIR) estimation.
19. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein each process in said plurality of processes is an echo.
- 30 20. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein each process in said plurality of processes uniquely corresponds to a different mobile hosted by said wireless communication system and each said process combines a plurality of echoes associated with the corresponding different mobile.

21. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs is capable of executing said subset of said set of functions on a time-scale of about 400 to about 5,000 times per second.

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22. The wireless communication system of claim 1 wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs further comprises:

an input register for receiving an input program associated with a process in said plurality of processes, each instruction in said input program being part of a

10 limited purpose instruction set that supports said subset of functions included in said communication protocol; and

each instruction in said limited purpose instruction set includes an arithmetic logic unit field, a load field, and a load/store field.

15 23. A method for reducing an amount of inter-process overhead between computing components in a device capable of hosting a plurality of communication processes, each communication process in said plurality of communication processes operating in accordance with a communication protocol, comprising:

distributing a plurality of application specific instruction set processors

20 (ASISPs), each ASISP capable of executing a subset of a set of functions in accordance with said communication protocol; and

providing a centralized controller for sending control commands to each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs; wherein

said centralized controller schedules the functions calculated by each said

25 ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs in a master/slave relationship, thereby reducing said amount of inter-process overhead between said computing components in said device.

24. A method for hosting a communication process with a communication architecture in accordance with a communication protocol, comprising:

30 allocating a plurality of application specific instruction set processors

(ASISPs) in said architecture to support said communication process, each ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs capable of executing a subset of a set of functions defined by said communication protocol; and

providing a centralized controller in said architecture for scheduling each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs in accordance with a scheduling scheme.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs
5 is dimensioned and configured for receiving scheduling commands and process state
information from said centralized controller, wherein said process state information
describes a state of said communication process.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs
10 receives input from non-scheduling control blocks in said communication architecture
in addition to said scheduling commands from said centralized controller.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein said scheduling scheme is a time-slicing
algorithm that allocates computational tasks to each ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs
15 in a time-sliced fashion.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein a first group of ASISPs in said plurality
ASISPs are dimensioned and configured to perform finger calculations and a second
group of ASISPs in said plurality of ASISPs are dimensioned and configured to
20 perform combiner calculations.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said subset of functions associated with each
ASISP in said first group of ASISPs comprise a delay lock loop (DLL) and a channel
estimation.

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30. The method of claim 28 wherein said subset of functions associated with each
ASISP in said second group of ASISPs comprise a frequency error estimation, a finger
energy estimation, and a signal-to-interference (SIR) estimation.

30 31. A method for hosting a plurality of processes in a wireless communication
system, each process in said plurality of processes executed in accordance with a
communication protocol, the communication protocol including a set of functions,
comprising:

distributing a plurality of application specific instruction set processors (ASISPs), each ASISP capable of executing a subset of said set of functions included in said communication protocol; and

- providing a scheduler for scheduling said plurality of ASISPs in accordance
5 with a time-slicing algorithm so that each process in said plurality of processes is supported by said wireless communication system.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs is dimensioned and configured to provide:

- 10 an input register for receiving an input program and state associated with a process in said plurality of processes, each instruction in said input program being part of a limited purpose instruction set that supports said subset of functions included in said communication protocol; and
an output register for storing a value that indicates a state of said process after
15 execution of said input program.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein

said input program is associated with a first process selected from said plurality of processes; and

- 20 said time-slicing algorithm includes a step of allocating a selected ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs to said input program for a predetermined period of time.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein execution of said input program is completed during said predetermined period of time.

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35. The method of claim 32, wherein said scheduler further includes a synchronization mechanism for synchronizing said plurality of ASISPs, the synchronization mechanism capable of reallocating an ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs from a first input program that is associated with a first process to a second input program that is associated with a second process.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein said first process is a first echo and said second process is a second echo.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein said first process is each echo associated with a first mobile and said second process is each echo associated with a second mobile.

5 38. The method of claim 32, wherein
 said time-slicing algorithm defines a predetermined period of time;
 said limited purpose instruction set includes a “wait” instruction for
 synchronization; and
 each ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs is configured so that when said “wait”
10 instruction is received by said input register, the ASISP does execute a communication
 protocol function during said predetermined period of time and then automatically
 returns to an idle state thereby reducing a power consumption of the ASISP during the
 predetermined period of time.

15 39. The method of claim 32, further comprising
 distributing a plurality of memory modules, each memory module in said
 plurality of memory modules associated with a different ASISP selected from said
 plurality of ASISPs.

20 40. The wireless communication system of claim 39 wherein said state of said
 process stored in said output register is stored in a unique segment of said different
 memory module, the unique segment of said memory module being determined by an
 identity of said process.

25 41. The method of claim 40 wherein said output register is further used to store a
 process identifier value that provides said identity of said process.

42. The method of claim 31 wherein said communication protocol is a code
 division multiple access (CDMA) protocol.

30 43. The method of claim 42 wherein said communication protocol is selected from
 the group consisting of IS-95 CDMA, IS-95B CDMA, CDMA TIA IS2000, TIA IS
 2000A, wideband CDMA (WCDMA), cdma2000, and ARIB WCDMA.

- 42) The method of claim 31 wherein each process in said plurality of processes is an echo.
- 5 43) The method of claim 31 wherein each process in said plurality of processes uniquely corresponds to a different mobile hosted by said wireless communication system and each said process combines a plurality of echoes associated with the corresponding different mobile.
- 10 44) The method of claim 31 wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs is capable of executing said subset of said set of functions on a time-scale of about 400 to about 5,000 times per second.
- 15 45) The method of claim 31 wherein each said ASISP in said plurality of ASISPs further comprises:
- an input register for receiving an input program associated with a process in said plurality of processes, each instruction in said input program being part of a limited purpose instruction set that supports said subset of functions included in said communication protocol; and
- 20 each instruction in said limited purpose instruction set includes an arithmetic logic unit field, a load field, and a load/store field.